

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

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INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022184

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: SC CONSULTATIONS ON UNTSO CHIEF OF STAFF

APPOINTMENT

REF: A. USUN 332; B. USUN 322; C. STATE 017612

1. DEPT HAS STUDIED USUN'S COMPROMISE FORMULATION (PARA 3, REF A) AND, WHILE AWARE OF UNDESIRABILITY OF ISOLATED US POSITION, PERCEIVES PROBLEMS WITH LAST SENTENCE STATING NO SC MEMBER RAISED OBJECTION TO SYG'S APPOINTMENT OF LILJESTRAND AS NEW UNTSO CHIEF OF STAFF. FORMULATION IMPLIES TO US THAT IF ONE SINGLE SC MEMBER HAD OBJECTED APPOINTMENT COULD NOT BE MADE. PHRASEOLOGY CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS ALSO IMPLIES MORE FORMAL PROCESS THAN WE BELIEVE IS WARRANTED.

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2. GIVEN PRECEDENT OF PREVIOUS UNTSO CHIEF OF STAFF

APPOINTMENTS, WHICH WERE SYG-S EXCLUSIVE PREROGATIVES THAT DID NOT INVOLVE SC CONSIDERATION, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SOVIET OBJECTIVES ARE TO PLACE UNTSO OPERATIONS FIRMLY UNDER SC CONTROL AND ERODE PREDOMINANT POSITION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES IN UNTSO, PARTICULARLY TRADITIONAL APPOINTMENT OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AS CHIEF OF STAFF. SOVIET TACTIC OF INVOLVING SC IN CHIEF OF STAFF APPOINTMENT COULD BE DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR SC INVOLVEMENT IN COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT UNTSO OBSERVERS INCLUDING SC CONSIDERATION OF ACCESS OF ALL UNTSO OBSERVERS TO UNTSO HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM AND TO ALL UNTSO OBSERVATION POSTS. THIS WOULD CAUSE GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO ISRAEL WHICH HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO PERMIT SOVIET OBSERVERS IN ISRAELI HELD TERRITORIES, INCLUDING JERUSALEM, AND MIGHT UNDERMINE EFFECTIVENESS OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST.

3. WE WOULD PREFER DELETION LAST SENTENCE REF A, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT REFERENCE TO NO OBJECTION BY SC MIGHT BE FAVORED BY MAJORITY. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SHOULD PROPOSE FOLLOWING FORMULATION: "ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN NOTE OF YOUR LETTER AND WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR APPOINTMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL LILJESTRAND AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF UNTSO." IF THIS FORMULATION FAILS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF MAJORITY OF SC MEMBERS, WE COULD ACCEPT SUBSTITUTION OF "HAS" FOR "WOULD HAVE" OR, ALTERNATIVELY FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR REQUEST, I BROUGHT THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHO HAVE TAKEN DUE NOTE OF ITS CONTENTS. NO OBJECTION WAS RAISED BY THE COUNCIL TO YOUR APPOINTMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL LILJESTRAND."

4. DRAWING ON REF C, MISSION SHOULD UNDERSCORE TO SYG THAT HIS PREROGATIVES AS UNTSO ADMINISTRATOR ARE AT STAKE AND URGE HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH SC MEMBERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE SYMPATHETIC TO CONCEPT THAT UNTSO SHOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER SYG'S DIRECT AUTHORITY WITH MINIMUM OF SC INVOLVEMENT (REF B). IN VIEW FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DENCY OF SC IN FEBRUARY, MISSION MAY ALSO REMIND FRANCE, WHICH HAS 23 UNTSO OBSERVERS, THAT GIVEN SC COMPOSITION, FRANCE'S POSITION IN UNTSO COULD BE ERODED IN FAVOR OF LDCS AND EES IF SC WERE GIVEN MORE AUTHORITY OVER ITS COMPOSITION AND DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS. MISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNEF AND UNTSO MANDATES, FUNCTIONS, AND HISTORIES. KISSINGER

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